

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) Apparatus for separating steam from a mixture of steam and ~~fibres~~fibers, comprising an elongated feeding compartment ~~(12)~~—including a pair of short sides, and having an inlet arranged between the short sides of the elongated feeding compartment and feeding means ~~(10)~~—for feeding a mixture of steam and ~~fibres~~fibers through said inlet and a conveyor worm arranged axially in the feeding compartment for feeding of fibers, characterized in that the said feeding means comprises—comprising a tubular section ~~(18)~~—which is curved such that the mixture of steam and ~~fibres~~fibers during passage in the tubular section ~~(18)~~—is separated during—under the influence of centrifugal forces in a substantially relatively heavy steamless fraction of ~~fibres~~fibers in a radially outer layer ~~(20)~~—and in a substantially light fibre-free fraction of steam in a radially inner layer—~~(22)~~, the tubular section is arranged in such a way that a heavy fraction of ~~fibres~~fibers is fed through the inlet peripherally ~~(P)~~—into the elongated feeding compartment of the apparatus, where the separated fraction of fibers are conveyed further by means of the conveyor worm, while the separated light fraction of steam is fed through the inlet against the centre—~~(C)~~—center of the elongated feeding compartment and removed through an outlet ~~(23,24)~~—of the apparatus.

2. (currently amended) Apparatus according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that the~~ wherein said tubular section ~~(18)~~—is adapted such that the difference in velocity, between the velocity of the ~~fibres~~fibers in the feeding means in relation to the velocity of a—the conveyor worm arranged in the elongated feeding compartment, is minimized.

3. (currently amended) Apparatus according to claim 1—~~or 2, characterized in that the apparatus comprises—further comprising an inwards radially extending wall section ~~(26)~~—from~~

an inner surface ~~(16')~~ in the elongated feeding compartment, that defines a rear chamber ~~(27)~~ in the apparatus to which the radial outlet ~~(24)~~ is connected, through which outlet the steam is removed.

4. (currently amended) Apparatus according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the feeding means has a substantially straight, linear elongated outer tubular portion ~~(30)~~, having an extension ~~(H)~~, which outer portion ~~(30)~~ is positioned adjacent an opposite end ~~(31)~~ compared to the end of the curved tubular section ~~(18)~~ that is connected to the inlet ~~(14)~~.

5. (currently amended) Apparatus according to claim 4, ~~characterized in that the wherein~~ extension ~~(H)~~ of the feeding means forms an angle between 75-90° in relation to the longitudinal extension ~~(L)~~ of the apparatus.

6. (currently amended) Apparatus according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~, ~~characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the inlet is arranged tangentially at the periphery ~~(16)~~ of the apparatus.

7. (currently amended) Apparatus according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~, ~~characterized in that~~ claim 1 wherein the cross-sectional area of the inlet and the feeding means is quadratic or rectangular.

8. (currently amended) Feeding means ~~(10)~~ for use in an apparatus as defined in ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, for feeding a mixture of steam and ~~fibres~~fibers through the inlet of the apparatus, ~~characterized in that the~~ said feeding means ~~comprises comprising~~ a tubular section ~~(18)~~ which is curved such that the mixture of steam and ~~fibres~~fibers ~~during~~ under the passage in the tubular section (18) is separated during influence of centrifugal forces in a substantially relatively heavy steam-less fraction of ~~fibres~~fibers in a radially outer

layer ~~(20)~~ and in a substantially light fibre-free fraction of steam in a radially inner layer ~~(22)~~.

9. (currently amended) Feeding means according to claim 8, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the curved tubular section ~~(18)~~ is adapted such that the difference in velocity, between the velocity of the ~~fibres~~fibers in the feeding means in relation to the velocity of the ~~fibres~~fibers within the apparatus, is minimized.

10. (currently amended) Feeding means according to claim 8 or 9, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the feeding means has a substantially straight, linear elongated outer tubular portion ~~(30)~~, having an extension ~~(H)~~, which outer portion ~~(30)~~ is adjacent an opposite end ~~(31)~~ compared to the end of the curved tubular section ~~(18)~~ that is connected to the inlet ~~(14)~~.

11. (currently amended) Feeding means according ~~to any of~~ ~~claims 8-10~~ claim 8, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the extension ~~(H)~~ of the feeding means forms an angle between 75-90° in relation to the longitudinal extension ~~(L)~~ of the apparatus.

12. (currently amended) Feeding means according ~~to any of~~ ~~claims 8-11~~ claim 8, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the cross-sectional area of the feeding means is quadratic or rectangular.

13. (currently amended) A method for feeding a mixture of steam and ~~fibres~~fibers to an elongated feeding compartment ~~(12)~~ ~~of an~~ having a pair of short sides for apparatus for separating steam from a mixture of steam and ~~fibres~~fibers, where the mixture of steam and ~~fibres~~fibers are fed ~~via a~~ by means of feeding means ~~(10)~~ through an inlet ~~(14)~~ arranged between the short sides of the elongated feeding compartment, and where the fibers are conveyed further by means of a conveyor worm arranged axially in the feeding compartment, ~~characterized in that the feeding means comprises~~ comprising a tubular section ~~(18)~~ which is curved, whereby the mixture of steam and ~~fibres~~fibers at during passage in the tubular section ~~(18)~~ is brought to

separate ~~during~~ under the influence of centrifugal forces in a substantially relatively heavy steam-less fraction of ~~fibres~~fibers in a radially outer layer ~~(20)~~—and in a substantially light ~~fibrefiber~~-free fraction of steam in a radially inner layer—~~(22)~~, the tubular section is arranged in such a way that heavy fraction of ~~fibres~~fibers is fed through the inlet peripherally ~~(P)~~—into the elongated feeding compartment of the apparatus, where the separated fraction of fibers are conveyed further by means of the conveyer worm, while the separated light fraction of steam is fed through the inlet against the ~~centre~~—~~(C)~~—center of the elongated feeding compartment and removed through an outlet ~~(23,24)~~—of the apparatus.